

City of Cambridge

Massachusetts

C.R.

---

# PARK DEPARTMENT

## ANNUAL REPORTS

. . 1903 . .



PRINTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT



BIR

LAUNDERY SLIP

Cambridge

Park Department

Annual Reports

1903

Author

Cat. No. C. R.

Color 2573

GOLD LETTERS

Sender's Name

Receiver's Name





ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

---

*To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:—*

GENTLEMEN:— We have the honor to herewith submit the eleventh annual report of the Board of Park Commissioners together with the tenth annual report of the General Superintendent of Parks, as required by Section 4 of the Ordinance establishing a Park Department.

With an appropriation of \$58,293.95, the Park Commissioners feel fully satisfied that they are able to show results as good as could be expected. About 41,000 yards of gravel filling have been deposited at Section C according to contract at the rate of fifty cents a yard. The section between River and Magazine streets is being filled by the same contractor with filling for which the City is receiving three cents a yard. Three thousand dollars were appropriated by the City Council for construction at Rindge Field. Two thousand five hundred dollars were appropriated for improving Cambridge Field Shelter and we are pleased to say that shower baths and all the necessary conditions attending, are ready for public use.

Being desirous of extending the park work as rapidly as possible within the limits of the appropriation, we feel the necessity of bringing to the mind of your honorable body the fact that the accomplishing of much work in this department is attended with large expense and we beg that for the incoming year your honorable body will be liberal with appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

PARK LOAN.

Amount of unused balance of 1902 appropriation reappropriated December 17, 1902	\$793 95
Amount appropriated January 29, 1903	10,000 00
Amount appropriated March 11, 1903	40,000 00
Amount appropriated November 12, 1903	7,500 00
	<hr/> \$58,293 95
<i>Improvements at Rindge Field.</i>	
Amount appropriated June 24, 1903	3,000 00
<i>Baths and Lockers.</i>	
Amount appropriated June 24, 1903	2,500 00

## PARK MAINTENANCE.

*Commons, Squares and Public Grounds.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	\$5,000 00
--	------------

*Shade Trees.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	5,000 00
--	----------

*Cambridge Field and Shelter.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	4,500 00
--	----------

*Brown Tail Moth Extermination.*

Amount appropriated January 8, 1903 . . . . .	\$2,500 00	
Amount appropriated February 28, 1903 . . . . .	1,000 00	
Amount of revenue received during year and appro- priated by order March 26, 1903 . . . . .	250 03	
	<hr/>	3,750 03

*Sections G and H.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	3,300 00
--	----------

*Sections A, B, D, F and Rindge Field.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	\$2,500 00	
Amount appropriated June 24, 1903 . . . . .	500 00	
	<hr/>	3,000 00

*Bath House.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	2,200 00
--	----------

*General Account.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	550 00
--	--------

During the year bills payable from Park Loans have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor to the total amount of \$54,547.05, as follows:—

## PARK LANDS AND CONSTRUCTION.

*River Parkway, Section A.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$25 88	
Land account . . . . .	7,500 00	
	<hr/>	\$7,525 88

*River Parkway, Section B.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$2,978 16	2,978 16
--------------------------------	------------	----------

*River Parkway, Section C.*

Construction account . . . . .	20,334 08	
Land account . . . . .	3,000 00	
	<hr/>	23,334 08

*River Parkway, Section D.*

Construction account . . . . .	1,929 88	1,929 88
--------------------------------	----------	----------

*River Parkway, Section E.*

Construction account . . . . .	5 25	5 25
--------------------------------	------	------

*River Parkway, Section F.*

Construction account . . . . .	5,229 22	
Land account . . . . .	1,059 26	
	<hr/>	6,288 48

PARK DEPARTMENT.

7

<i>River Parkway, Section G.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	\$141 20	\$141 20
<i>Fort Washington.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	929 79	929 79
<i>Rindge Field.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	928 00	928 00
<i>Nursery.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	618 13	618 13
<i>Broadway Park.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	326 62	326 62
<i>Cambridge Field.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	252 56	252 56
<i>General Account.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	2,705 29	2,705 29
<i>Office Expenses.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	1,084 64	1,084 64
Amount expended . . . . .		\$49,047 96
Balance unexpended . . . . .		<u>9,245 99</u>
<i>Improvements at Rindge Field.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	\$2,999 09	\$2,999 09
Balance unexpended . . . . .		<u>\$0 91</u>
<i>Baths and Lockers.</i>		
Construction account . . . . .	\$2,500 00	<u>\$2,500 00</u>

During the year bills payable from Park Maintenance have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor, as follows :—

	Amount expended.	Balance unexpended.
Commons, Squares and Public Grounds . . . . .	\$4,997 16	\$2 84
Shade Trees . . . . .	4,949 81	50 19
Cambridge Field and Shelter . . . . .	4,499 79	21
Brown Tail Moth Extermination . . . . .	3,639 13	110 90
Sections G and H . . . . .	3,280 84	19 16
Sections A, B, D, F and Rindge Field . . . . .	2,979 33	20 67
Bath House . . . . .	2,193 95	6 05
General Account . . . . .	548 13	1 87

From the above it will be seen that the amount expended during the year under Park Loans was divided as follows :—

Construction account . . . . .	\$42,987 79
Land account . . . . .	11,559 26
	<u>\$54,547 05</u>

A detailed classification of the expenditures will be found in the report of the General Superintendent.

Since the beginning of the work in 1893 there has been expended to date, of money raised under Park and Esplanade Loans, the sum of \$1,409,444.43.

The division is as follows:—

*River Parkway, Section A.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$154,931 52	
Land account . . . . .	9,401 83	
	<hr/>	\$164,333 35

*River Parkway, Section B.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$90,862 13	90,862 13
--------------------------------	-------------	-----------

*River Parkway, Section C.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$71,834 36	
Land account . . . . .	31,701 08	
	<hr/>	103,535 44

*River Parkway, Section D.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$92,997 96	
Land account . . . . .	95,047 25	
	<hr/>	188,045 21

*River Parkway, Section E.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$935 72	
Land account . . . . .	60,110 00	
	<hr/>	61,045 72

*River Parkway, Section F.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$50,046 03	
Land account . . . . .	67,491 62	
	<hr/>	117,537 65

*River Parkway, Section G.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$120,669 41	
Land account . . . . .	85,614 82	
	<hr/>	206,284 23

*River Parkway, Section H.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$13,135 30	13,135 30
--------------------------------	-------------	-----------

*Cambridge Field.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$127,315 28	
Land account . . . . .	78,884 85	
	<hr/>	206,200 13

*East Cambridge Embankment.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$87,498 88	
Land account . . . . .	45,231 40	
	<hr/>	132,730 28

*General Account.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$44,965 40	44,965 40
--------------------------------	-------------	-----------

*Rindge Field.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$10,158 99	
Land account . . . . .	31,461 85	
	<hr/>	41,620 84

*Office Expenses.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$13,762 49	13,762 49
--------------------------------	-------------	-----------



*Broadway Park.*

Construction account . . . . .	\$11,635 27	\$11,635 27
--------------------------------	-------------	-------------

*Nursery.*

Construction account . . . . .	6,779 32	6,779 32
--------------------------------	----------	----------

*Improvements at Rindge Field.*

Construction account . . . . .	2,999 09	2,999 09
--------------------------------	----------	----------

*Hastings Square.*

Construction account . . . . .	2,683 07	2,683 07
--------------------------------	----------	----------

*Baths and Lockers.*

Construction account . . . . .	2,500 00	2,500 00
--------------------------------	----------	----------

*Winthrop Square.*

Construction account . . . . .	1,866 26	1,866 26
--------------------------------	----------	----------

*Fort Washington.*

Construction account . . . . .	929 79	929 79
--------------------------------	--------	--------

*Washington Elm.*

Construction account . . . . .	466 98	466 98
--------------------------------	--------	--------

*Porter Square.*

Construction account . . . . .	20 87	20 87
--------------------------------	-------	-------

\$1,413,938 82
----------------

Less Park revenue for 1894 and 1896 merged into land and construction accounts . . . . .	4,494 39
--	----------

<u>\$1,409,444 43</u>
-----------------------

Of the whole amount of Park Loans expended to December 1, 1903, 35 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. has been for land and 64 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for construction, as follows:—

Land account (less "revenues") . . . . .	\$500,450 31
Construction account . . . . .	908,994 12
	<u>\$1,409,444 43</u>

Respectfully submitted,

ANDREW J. CONLIN,  
GEO. HOWLAND COX,  
JNO. E. DWYER, M. D.,

*Park Commissioners.*

# REPORT OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

---

CAMBRIDGE, December 1, 1903.

*To the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Cambridge:—*

GENTLEMEN, — I have the honor to present my first annual report as General Superintendent of Parks, covering the financial year 1903.

The work of construction and maintenance on the different sections, commons, squares, etc., is as follows:—

## SECTION A.

*(Area 9.07 acres.)*

Section A extends from the south line of Main Street as widened for the approach to the new bridge, to the west line of the third street east of Massachusetts Avenue.

Seven Welsbach lights have been maintained here during the year.

The trees on this section are in a very poor condition and need restaking and bracing up with strong fastenings.

One lamp post and four dead trees have been removed.

The easterly end of this section should be resurfaced, as there are several bad and dangerous holes in the street.

## SECTION B.

*(Area 19.72 acres.)*

Section B extends from the west line of the third street east of Massachusetts Avenue to the west line of the fourth street west of the avenue, but does not include Massachusetts Avenue.

Four men have been employed here the greater part of the season in the care of lawns, streets and shrubbery; also during the summer months a watering cart has been employed.

The settees should be painted, and I would suggest that more settees be placed out next season.

The shrubbery is in good condition but more planting will have to be done in some of the beds.

The trees will need restaking and tying as they are in a bad condition.

The usual amount of work has been done on the trees, shrubs, turf covered strips, walks and roads of this section.

The river walk is in poor shape, also the walk on the property side; both require filling and top surfacing. The unevenness of these roads has prompted visitors to walk on the bordering turf, thereby injuring the same.

The trees have done fairly well with the exception of those next to the sea wall, which fall short of the vigor expected.

It would be well if the property owners were to build up their land to a corresponding grade with the adjoining park land, thus avoiding the present ragged appearance.

The catch basins on the side next the river have been cleaned.

Eight lamp posts have been removed.

The iron fence has been cleaned and painted.

Eight dead trees have been removed.

Twenty-six Welsbach lights have been maintained during the year.

The streets on either side of the third and fourth lawns west of Massachusetts Avenue should be graded, also the fourth lawn.

There remains to be built on this section about 357 feet of sea wall in order to complete the proposed plan.

#### SECTION C.

*(Area 13.39 acres.)*

Section C extends from the west line of the fourth street west of Massachusetts Avenue to the east line of Brookline Street, but does not include the right of way of the Grand Junction Railroad.

The principal construction work of the season has been performed here. In May, 1903, a contract was awarded to William B. Mullen for furnishing 50,000 cubic yards of gravel and constructing the roadway from the end of the present sea wall to the Boston & Albany Railroad. Owing to unforeseen delays this work was not started until the first of August. The material was dredged from the river. Only 38,851 cubic yards of gravel have been delivered to date, at a cost of \$18,007.26. As this shortage was foreseen, and as it would have left the roadway in an incomplete and unsatisfactory condition, it was decided to narrow the fill, only constructing the thirty foot drive. It is intended to have this thrown open to the public by the first of the year.

As the river gravel is more or less of a sandy nature and not suitable for the surface of the roadway, it will be necessary another year to place a thin layer of some binding material upon it.

The Bay State Dredging Company was given the right to dump mud

outside the wooden bulkhead, upon the payment of three cents per cubic yard. About 22,774 cubic yards have been received in this manner, thus saving the department considerable expense. This material makes a very satisfactory foundation for the beach construction which should be completed next year.

Considerable filling has been received between Brookline Street and the Boston & Albany Railroad.

During the season material has been received as follows:— about 2,810 cubic yards of cinders at a cost of \$702.52; about 1,069 cubic yards of filling at a cost of \$182.46; and about 125.6 cubic yards of loam at a cost of \$86.61.

The Sewer Department delivered at this section 368 cubic yards of filling, in exchange for which we paid for Sewer Department labor to the amount of \$92.00.

The coming season, the road, walks and tree spaces should be put in order as soon as possible.

The beach also can be carried from Brookline Street to end of sea wall much cheaper the coming year than later.

The early completion of the roadway to connect with Section D would open an avenue of travel that would be much appreciated by the traveling public and also by the owners of property adjoining the parkway.

#### SECTION D.

*(Area 38.31 acres.)*

Section D extends from the west line of Brookline Street to the south line of River Street.

On this section the usual work has been done on the trees, shrubs, turf covered strips, walks and roads.

Twenty-nine Welsbach lights have been maintained here, eighteen on the driveway and eleven on the Island, together with three arc lights on the beach during the bathing season.

Three men have been employed here during the season.

The walks are in a very bad condition and should be brought up to grade.

The trees show very pleasing results.

The playground east of Magazine Street is in a poor condition, and in order to keep the ground dry a permanent tide gate should be built in the Pearl Street sewer in the line of the dyke, as recommended last year. The construction of the little children's playground should be carried out.

In the early spring the bathing beach at the foot of the slope showed considerable mud, which had to be removed at a small expense to the





River Parkway, Section C. 1903





department. To avoid this the coming season the slope can be raised with gravel. This work can be done at extreme low tides at a small expense.

While working on the contract for filling Section C there was found a surplus amount of silt, and the department furnished a dumping place for the same near River Street. Some of this material was placed back of the Bradford Boat Club House, between Brookline Street and the dyke.

At the bath house a police officer and the usual number of attendants were employed. A check system was installed, which proved very satisfactory and improved the method of handling large crowds of bathers. The entire force of attendants were on duty each day, from June 16 to September 24, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 10 P. M., with the exception of four hours at low tide.

The total receipts from suits, towels and lockers amounted to \$1,134.71, and the estimated number of bathers was 40,880. The laundering has been done by a local laundry at a cost of ninety cents per hundred pieces. It has become still more apparent the past season that the proposed new bath house with laundry should be built at once. It was with great effort and overwork on the part of the attendants that suits and towels were furnished at times, as the proprietor of the laundry would not allow his help to work on Sunday. Additional dressing rooms are also needed.

The beach is fairly well sheltered and is exceedingly popular with the residents, young and old.

In the emergency room which was fitted up under the direction of Dr. John E. Dwyer, twenty-one cases were successfully treated, and we consider this room an important addition to the equipments of the bath house.

Three water carnivals were held during the season at the beach and races and exhibitions took place, as follows: 50, 100 and 440 yard races for men; 50 and 100 yard races for boys and girls; tub races, water baseball, etc. Silver cups, which were paid for by public subscription, were given as prizes. The races were a great success and were enjoyed by many.

#### SECTION E.

(Area 1.77 acres.)

Section E extends from the north line of River Street to south line of Western Avenue.

No construction work has been done here during the year.

The guard fences at the River Street bridge have been repaired.

## SECTION F.

(Area 13.89 acres.)

Section F extends from the north line of Western Avenue to the east line of Boylston Street.

The work on this section during the summer was caring for the Charles River Road, walks, planted spaces, grass plots, trees and shrubs.

Between Boylston and DeWolf Streets there has been a gradual settling, making it necessary to regrade at this point as soon as possible. The uncompleted walks on this section require top-surfacing because of the large amount of travel to and from Soldier's Field.

The trees which were last planted present an unattractive appearance owing to their slow growth.

It would be well in the early spring to use the remaining material in the two wharves on this section, in constructing the proposed beach.

The beach just east of the boat house will have to be graded, and gravel should be furnished for surfacing the beach easterly from the present work.

The planting space at the top of the slope should be graded and planted and considerable loam will be required for the same.

With the exception of a stretch of flats about 300 feet in length opposite Sands Street, the fill is now continuous between Flagg Street and Western Avenue. It is expected that the ashes received during the coming winter will go a long way towards bringing the same to sub-grade, making a continuous drive to Western Avenue.

About 2,401 loads of material, consisting of ashes, street scrapings, excavations from cellars, etc., have been received at a cost of \$323.98; also about 2,418 cubic yards of filling at a cost of \$514.86.

Eleven Welsbach lights have been maintained here during the year and more lights are needed.

Four men have been employed here during most of the season taking care of this section.

In the early fall a contract was awarded to John C. McGirr for shingling and repairing the Weld Boat House, and was satisfactorily completed at a cost of \$790.00.

Opposite the West End Power Station there is a large exhaust pipe which terminates on the beach. Owing to the weight of gravel forming the slope of the beach, this pipe has broken on two occasions, carrying with it large quantities of gravel into the river. At times also there is considerable oil coming from this pipe causing a great deal of annoyance to the bathers at Section D.

As usual the catch basins have been cleaned and are in good order for the winter season.

## SECTION G.

*(Area 16.07 acres.)*

Section G extends from the west line of Boylston Street to the east line of the land of the Stillman Infirmary.

The work done on Section G was caring for the Charles River Road, walks, planted spaces, grass plots, trees and shrubs.

The walks on this section require surfacing.

The grass plot near the Lowell Willows and the ribbon strips between Bath and Boylston Streets have settled considerably and require attention.

The curbing between Murray and Boylston Streets should be removed.

Twenty-six Welsbach lights have been maintained here.

Four men have been employed most of the season.

The iron fences at the top of the beach west of Boylston Street and along Mt. Auburn Street should be repaired and painted.

The beach between the Stillman Infirmary and the Gas Wharf needs immediate attention as the current at this point has carried the gravel out into the river. It would have been well when this part of the beach was built if the foot of the slope had been secured, thereby saving the department the necessity of purchasing gravel at a great expense from time to time.

It would be advisable to put tide gates on the surface drains that lead the surface water to the river. At the present time considerable work is being done on the paved beach. During the early part of the season 196 loads of gravel were furnished at a cost of \$98.00; this gravel was used for regrading the top of the beach.

The catch basins are in good condition for the winter season.

## SECTION H.

*(Area 1.44 acres.)*

Section H extends from the east line of the land of the Stillman Infirmary to the Metropolitan Park taking at Gerry's Landing.

During the season the trees and grass have been cared for as usual and the section is in very good condition.

The walk needs to be regraded with some binding material as its present uneven condition obliges pedestrians to walk on the grass.

## CAMBRIDGE FIELD.

*(Area 12.64 acres.)*

Three men were employed here a part of the season caring for the lawns, walks and shrubbery.



This useful field still continues to draw a larger number of people each year, both in winter and summer. In the summer season, and especially on Saturdays and holidays the grounds are crowded for the purpose of witnessing the base-ball, cricket and track games. The increasing demand for seats can be heard at all of these games and it is to be hoped that sufficient appropriation will be made to permit the building of bleachers on the field in order that the people who witness the games can do so with comfort instead of standing for hours in the broiling sun.

In the winter months about four acres are flooded and during the skating season, men, women and children come from every direction to enjoy the skating.

The running track has been used considerably during the season and should be given a little attention.

The paths outside of the running track and in front of the band stand should be regraded. All the macadam walks on the field should be surfaced with stone dust and rolled.

The shrubbery on the sides and especially the part facing York Street is in a very poor condition. The trees are in a fair condition and have added some shade to the field. They should be trimmed in the spring. As was recommended last year, the electric light wires should be placed under ground as they interfere with the tops of the trees.

Some regrading of the loam spaces is necessary.

The play field is in a poor condition and it would be well to top dress it with loam, thereby giving an inviting surface that would take care of itself.

Some repairs are needed in the plumbing of the Shelter and in the drains from the field.

During the year seven are lights have been maintained and more are required here during the skating season as crowds of people on entering and leaving the field at night, trample over the planted spaces and break down the shrubbery on account of the poorly lighted conditions of the field.

A contract was awarded to Herbert L. Rose for installing shower baths and lockers in the basement of the Shelter and the work has been completed at a cost of \$2,464.46.

Some sort of a permanent protection should be placed over the sand courts.

Numerous requests for band concerts have been made, and notwithstanding the fact that we have one of the best band stands in the City, there were no band concerts given here last season on account of lack of funds.



## RINDGE FIELD AND NURSERY.

*(Area 11.52 acres.)*

During the fall construction work composed of grading and making a play field has been nearly completed. This field will be used for games in the summer and skating in the winter. Some alterations were made in the original plan in order to make a larger play field and to do away with the purchase of filling. It is desirous, the coming year, to complete the rest of the plan as accepted, as this is a long felt want of the people of this section.

Plans and specifications were made for a Sanitary Building which it was deemed inexpedient to build the present season, but it is hoped that the same, together with a Shelter, can be constructed the coming year.

Preparations for the planting of trees and shrubbery are now under way.

One man has been constantly employed caring for the Nursery and the lawns at the Sleeper School.

The trees and shrubs in the Nursery are in a fair condition. Some of the trees, the oaks in particular, will soon be too large to transplant successfully. It would be advisable to transplant them to Cambridge Field the coming season as there is ample space there for them.

## EAST CAMBRIDGE EMBANKMENT.

*(Area 8.35 acres.)*

No construction work has been performed here this year.

Considerable filling has been received here without expense to the City.

Ballast should be placed back of the sea wall to protect it and allow the work of filling to continue.

## COMMONS, SQUARES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS.

The usual attention has been given to the care of the different commons and squares and to the public grounds in charge of the department.

As was advocated last year, the relocation of walks and planting at the Public Library should be completed. There also remains a small amount of grading and planting to be done on the Ellery Street side of the Latin School grounds.

The grounds of the new Kelley School on Willow Street were graded and sodded at the expense of the Public Building Department; 152.74

cubic yards of loam were used at a cost of \$137.47, and 400 square feet of sod, at a cost of \$10.00.

The usual attention has been given to the care of Cambridge Common, such as cutting the grass and taking care of shrubs and walks. The grass plots should be regraded with loam as the surface water stands in several places. The fence surrounding the Common has been repaired and the iron fence around the Soldiers' Monument has been repaired and painted. The cannon have also been painted. Two men have been employed on the Cambridge Common almost constantly.

Broadway Common continues to attract large numbers of women and children. During the early part of the season an entrance was made on the Broadway side of the Common opposite Tremont Street, and a new cross walk constructed. As the larger portion of the walks are composed of brick, it would be well to have the new walks conform with the others. Numerous complaints have been made to the department that children destroy the shrubbery and tear down the wire guards. It would be well if one man were stationed here all the time to see that this destruction is stopped.

The iron fence surrounding Broadway Common has been repaired and painted and the flag pole should be repaired and painted as soon as possible.

#### WASHINGTON ELM.

The usual care has been taken of this Revolutionary landmark.

The foliage was very full and heathful the past summer, new wood is making and the small roots and fibres have filled the loam through its entire extent.

The turf has been renewed and the old wounds on the tree have been cared for.

The tree is in a fair state of preservation.

#### FORT WASHINGTON.

This old historic fort with its three-gun battery and flag staff has been put in proper condition. "Let no unpatriotic hand destroy it."

The first of the season work was begun on the fort and consisted of grading grass plots with loam and building walks and planting shrubbery as per plan. The moat which was partially filled, was excavated and the breast works which were ragged and unsightly, were shaped up with loam and filling.

The iron fence surrounding the fort was repaired.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ~  
 ~ PARK COMMISSION  
 PLAN OF IMPROVEMENTS  
 AT  
**FORT WASHINGTON**  
 ~ 1903 ~

J.W. Pierce  
 City Engineer

PARK COMMISSIONERS  
 Andrew J. Conlin, Chairman.  
 Geo. Howland Cox.  
 Dr. John E. Dwyer.

B. & A. R. R.

ST

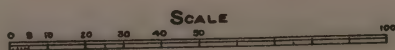
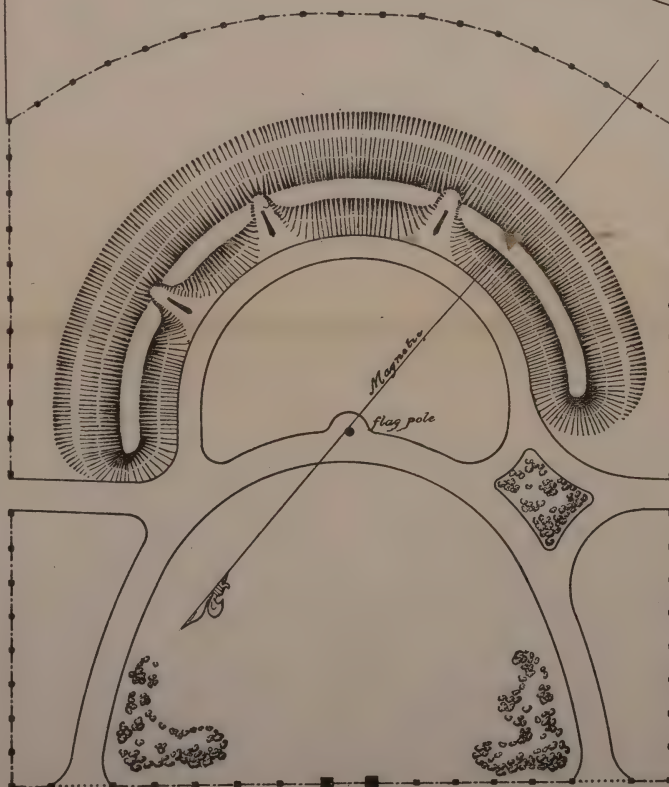
REARDON

ST.

TALBOT

WAVERLY

ST.



С. 1001

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ

ПОДПИСАНИЕ



The guns and gun carriages which were tilted at all angles, were straightened up, mounted and repaired.

The guns and gun carriages and the iron fence surrounding the fort should be painted the coming year.

Hannah Winthrop Chapter, D. A. R., of this City, held a very interesting meeting on Monday, October 19, at which time the ceremony of presenting a flag to the City of Cambridge to float over Fort Washington took place, and an American flag was unfurled to the breeze from the top of the old historic flag staff which has stood on the ground for nearly a century.

Fort Washington is the only Revolutionary fort or battery remaining in Cambridge. It was built by order of General Washington in the year 1775, and was called a three-gun battery. In the year 1857, three citizens who owned this land gave it to the City on condition that when it was enclosed and improved by the City it should remain forever an open spot for light and air, and for the accommodation of the general public.

In 1858, the City and State each expended \$2,000, putting the fort in good condition and enclosing it with an iron fence, the State giving what it did only on condition that the fence should be kept in good condition.

### SHADE TREES.

In December work was begun clearing the trees of the nests of the brown-tail, gypsy and tussock moths. Expert climbers were employed and the trees were given a systematic cleaning. The brown-tail nests were cut from the trees and burned, while the gypsy and tussock nests were treated with a creosote paint. By this method the department has succeeded in reducing the number of the nests of the brown-tail moth quite perceptibly and it is hoped by following the same process another season to very nearly if not quite exterminate them. In treating the gypsy moth nests we have not been as successful, due partially to the form of the nests, it being almost impossible to see them on the limbs of large trees; and partially to the fact that the land owners in the sections where the gypsy moth is found, have not co-operated with the City in cleaning their trees. It is hoped the coming winter to have an appropriation large enough that every tree in the City may be thoroughly cleaned.

Nothing was done during the season towards destroying the elm-leaf beetle but as this pest is spreading very rapidly, I would recommend that an apparatus be purchased and special war be waged upon it the coming year.



The work on the street trees accomplished this year is as follows :—

1,876 wire guards repaired.

577 trees trimmed.

154 new wire guards put on.

149 trees removed, as follows :—

*Acer saccharum* . . . 52

*Aesculus hippocastanum* . . 19

*Alnus glutinosa* . . . 1

*Fraxinus Americana* . . . 4

*Populus alba* . . . 1

*Populus candicans* . . . 3

*Salix vitellina* . . . 1

*Tilia Americana* . . . 5

*Ulmus Americana* . . . 62

*Ulmus campestris* . . . 1

15 heads cut off.

14 stumps removed.

2 trees planted.

### WHAT CAMBRIDGE NEEDS.

The City of Cambridge needs a municipal bath run like the Brookline Public Baths which are a paying investment. Brookline is now well known for its fine swimming pool and in every amateur swimming meet the Brookline Swimming Club is always well represented.

The benefits derived from a bath like this in the City of Cambridge would be without number. There are good swimmers in Cambridge but in winter they have no place to practise, although many Cambridge people now have commutation tickets for the Brookline swimming pool.

The apathy that has existed in Cambridge in recent years in regard to the development of public gymnasia and play grounds, should, in the opinion of many, give way to some definite action. With the excellent sites and natural advantages afforded us, no legitimate reasons can be advanced for further disregard in this matter. While it may be admitted that some improvements have been made in this department, they are by no means commensurate with the needs of the people and the importance of the City. Cambridge with a population of 96,000, can at least support one public gymnasium and a play ground in a community where it is a public necessity.

What is needed is a gymnasium where the youths of the City, under proper direction, can be afforded every facility for the building up of their physical natures, and the storing up of sufficient strength and energy for their well-being.

The manifold advantages of such institutions in a city are so manifest that it occasions surprise that the City Government has not taken some means to provide for their introduction before this.

Statistics show that the annual influx of country born and bred into a city, alone preserves its growth and development, and arrests the retrograding tendencies of city life. From this it is evident that the only way to obviate these baneful influences as far as possible, is to afford the people those means which best serve to preserve their stamina.

Crowded communities now exist on former sites of fields and pastures and it is due the dwellers in these congested districts to provide them with public places of recreation and helpful out door life that is now denied them. In this respect, Cambridge would do well to emulate the example of her sister city across the Charles, which now ranks foremost among the cities of the world. Public gymnasias and play grounds have been established in almost every community, and competent instructors are employed the year round to direct and supervise the proper exercising of its patrons. The wisdom of this course is only too well established, and Boston's example has been followed to some extent at least in almost every large city in the country. Despite the fact that all this has been going on under our very eyes all these years, and their good results have been so often attested, yet Cambridge still remains in its lethargic attitude.

In many instances, cities with a population of equal or less proportions have a system of public play grounds and gymnasias, and Cambridge can certainly afford to provide the same. It would be nothing experimental, and would be fully appreciated, for their success and necessity have long since been established.

We have an excellent site for the construction of a gymnasium on the play ground at Cambridge Field, where a running track has already been made, baths and lockers installed, and there is plenty of area inside the track for the erection of suitable apparatus. To complete the project, the City Council should appropriate a sufficient amount and give the City at least one complete public gymnasium.

The dilatory methods that have characterized the citizens of Cambridge in the past, should now give way to more concrete action. Let us do what ought to have been done and there will be no further grounds for complaint. If this question should be put to popular vote, there is no doubt but that it would be accepted almost unanimously. There is then only one conclusion,— give the people what they need and what they want, what every progressive city in the country has already, or is in the act of giving, public gymnasias and play grounds.

## THE YEAR'S EXPENDITURES.

The expenses of the department for the year are shown in the following summary of the departmental accounts :—

## PARK LOANS.

(Lands and Construction.)

Amount of unused balance of 1902 appropriation reappropriated	
December 17, 1902 . . . . .	\$793 95
Amount appropriated January 29, 1903 . . . . .	10,000 00
Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	40,000 00
Amount appropriated November 12, 1903 . . . . .	7,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$58,293 95

## EXPENDED.

*River Parkway, Section A.*

Land damages . . . . .	\$7,500 00	
Engineering . . . . .	25 88	
	<hr/>	\$7,525 88

*River Parkway, Section B.*

Pay roll . . . . .	\$2,173 30	
Street watering . . . . .	462 05	
Cleaning and painting fence . . . . .	220 00	
Edgestone . . . . .	51 98	
Paint . . . . .	36 20	
Hardware . . . . .	9 87	
Hose and reducer . . . . .	8 63	
Blacksmithing . . . . .	8 25	
Water works . . . . .	3 75	
Engineering . . . . .	2 63	
Express . . . . .	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$2,978 16

*River Parkway, Section C.*

Gravel . . . . .	\$18,007 26	
Services of lawyer in case of Norcross vs. City	3,000 00	
Engineering . . . . .	897 90	
Cinders . . . . .	702 52	
Pay roll . . . . .	407 95	
Filling . . . . .	182 46	
Loam . . . . .	86 61	
Stakes for engineers . . . . .	32 75	
New lock on gate at crossing . . . . .	10 51	
Hardware . . . . .	2 87	
Oars . . . . .	1 69	
Stove pipe . . . . .	1 21	
Telegram . . . . .	35	
	<hr/>	\$23,334 08

*River Parkway, Section D.*

Pay roll . . . . .	\$1,651 66	
Engineering . . . . .	275 25	
Hardware . . . . .	1 97	
Turning water off and on . . . . .	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,929 88

Amounts carried forward . . . . .	\$35,768 00	\$58,293 95
-----------------------------------	-------------	-------------

<i>Amounts brought forward</i> . . . . .	\$35,768 00	\$58,293 95
<i>River Parkway, Section E.</i>		
Engineering . . . . .	\$5 25	\$5 25
<i>River Parkway, Section F.</i>		
Pay roll . . . . .	\$2,012 57	
Land damages . . . . .	1,058 57	
Removing stone and piles . . . . .	1,002 04	
Shingling and repairing Weld Boat House . . . . .	790 00	
Filling . . . . .	643 36	
Teaming . . . . .	466 40	
Engineering . . . . .	253 12	
Ashes . . . . .	44 50	
Blacksmithing . . . . .	14 30	
Advertising and printing . . . . .	2 93	
Recording deed . . . . .	69	
	<hr/>	\$6,288 48
<i>River Parkway, Section G.</i>		
Gravel . . . . .	\$98 00	
Pay roll . . . . .	43 20	
	<hr/>	\$141 20
<i>Fort Washington.</i>		
Pay roll . . . . .	\$496 20	
Sod . . . . .	200 33	
Repairing fence . . . . .	103 00	
Teaming . . . . .	26 69	
Engineering . . . . .	25 87	
Paint . . . . .	18 39	
Watering system . . . . .	17 60	
Chipped stone . . . . .	14 00	
Making cannon axles . . . . .	10 60	
Ashes . . . . .	8 69	
Lumber . . . . .	3 42	
	<hr/>	\$929 79
<i>Rindge Field.</i>		
Pay roll . . . . .	\$915 65	
Engineering . . . . .	7 88	
Advertising . . . . .	2 97	
Faucet . . . . .	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$928 00
<i>Nursery</i>		
Pay roll . . . . .	\$616 00	
Coal . . . . .	2 13	
	<hr/>	\$618 13
<i>Broadway Park.</i>		
Pay roll . . . . .	\$196 33	
Teaming . . . . .	35 00	
Ashes . . . . .	27 85	
Grass seed . . . . .	21 32	
Gravel . . . . .	20 40	
Paint . . . . .	18 39	
Twisted wire . . . . .	5 28	
Sod . . . . .	1 70	
Express . . . . .	35	
	<hr/>	\$326 62
<i>Amounts carried forward</i> . . . . .	\$45,005 47	\$58,293 95

<i>Amounts brought forward . . . . .</i>		\$45,005 47	\$58,293 95
<i>Cambridge Field.</i>			
Services of architect . . . . .	\$125 00		
Masonry . . . . .	100 97		
Engineering . . . . .	23 62		
Advertising . . . . .	2 97		
		\$252 56	
<i>General Account.</i>			
General Superintendent's salary . . . . .	\$1,042 31		
Acting General Superintendent's salary . . . . .	360 00		
Repairs and alterations at stable . . . . .	270 56		
Hay, grain and straw . . . . .	131 20		
Difference in horse trade . . . . .	125 00		
Car tickets for office . . . . .	100 00		
Printing and binding reports of 1902 . . . . .	87 52		
Heliotype cuts for report of 1902 . . . . .	87 50		
Car tickets for engineers . . . . .	75 00		
Tools and hardware . . . . .	68 04		
Pay roll . . . . .	57 35		
Board of horse . . . . .	45 75		
Repairing workmen's shanty . . . . .	41 74		
Rent of storeroom . . . . .	40 00		
Shoeing horse . . . . .	39 25		
Grass seed . . . . .	21 32		
Printing and stock . . . . .	17 75		
Miscellaneous supplies for stable . . . . .	13 20		
Water rates, stable . . . . .	11 50		
Binding reports for Commissioners . . . . .	10 75		
Repairing horse roller . . . . .	10 35		
Dies for report of 1902 . . . . .	10 00		
Sharpening picks . . . . .	7 80		
Coal . . . . .	6 75		
Paint for watering cart . . . . .	6 50		
Repairing harness . . . . .	5 80		
Envelopes for report . . . . .	4 00		
Clipping horse . . . . .	3 00		
Repairing carriage . . . . .	2 50		
Cover for watering cart . . . . .	2 50		
Express . . . . .	35		
		\$2,705 29	
<i>Office Expenses.</i>			
Pay roll . . . . .	\$780 00		
Stationery and printing . . . . .	116 01		
Telephone service . . . . .	115 28		
Postage stamps . . . . .	30 35		
Blank books to order . . . . .	27 90		
Stamp for Superintendent . . . . .	4 05		
Cambridge Directory . . . . .	3 50		
Opening and repairing desk, and making keys	3 45		
Window boxes . . . . .	3 00		
Repairing gate lock . . . . .	70		
Hardware . . . . .	25		
Express . . . . .	15		
		\$1,084 64	
Total . . . . .			\$49,047 96
Balance unexpended . . . . .			\$9,245 99



**PARK LOANS.***(Lands and Construction.)**Improvements at Rindge Field.*

Amount appropriated June 24, 1903 . . . . .	\$3,000 00
---	------------

**EXPENDED.**

Pay roll . . . . .	\$2,881 58
Apparatus for playground . . . . .	65 00
Tools and hardware . . . . .	40 82
Engineering . . . . .	9 37
Advertising . . . . .	2 32

Total . . . . .	\$2,999 09
-----------------	------------

Balance unexpended . . . . .	\$0 91
------------------------------	--------

**PARK LOANS.***(Lands and Construction.)**Baths and Lockers.*

Amount appropriated June 24, 1903 . . . . .	\$2,500 00
---	------------

**EXPENDED.**

## Installing baths and lockers in Cambridge

Field Shelter . . . . .	\$2,464 46
Changing service for lighting . . . . .	27 54
Pay roll . . . . .	8 00

Total . . . . .	\$2,500 00
-----------------	------------

**PARK MAINTENANCE.***Commons, Squares and Public Grounds.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . .	\$5,000 00
--	------------

**EXPENDED.**

Pay roll . . . . .	\$3,936 00
Lighting . . . . .	360 00
Cleaning, repairing and painting iron fences	275 87
Assorted plants . . . . .	75 00
Repairing flag pole and sending up two top-	
masts . . . . .	73 00
Teaming . . . . .	63 25
Bulbs . . . . .	53 85
Tools and hardware . . . . .	23 13
Stakes for engineers . . . . .	22 50
Lumber . . . . .	15 51
Back stop, Cambridge Common . . . . .	15 15
Coal . . . . .	14 24
Lawn mower fixings . . . . .	13 76
Housing two topmasts . . . . .	11 33
Sod . . . . .	10 00
Rope for halyards . . . . .	9 00
Screened stone . . . . .	7 45

Amounts carried forward . . . . .	\$4,979 04	\$5,000 00
-----------------------------------	------------	------------

<i>Amounts brought forward</i>	\$4,979 04	\$5,000 00
Repairing flags	5 80	
Express	4 40	
Repairing rubbish barrels	3 48	
Printing	2 00	
Blacksmithing	1 50	
Loam	94	
Total	<hr/>	\$4,997 16
Balance unexpended		<hr/> \$2 84

*Shade Trees.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$5,000 00

EXPENDED.		
Pay roll	\$4,588 43	
Repairs at stable	253 50	
Teaming	36 25	
Lumber	25 15	
Sharpening saws	22 95	
Tools and hardware	15 88	
Miscellaneous supplies for stable	5 25	
Kerosene oil	1 30	
Express	90	
Repairing damage caused by trees	20	
Total	<hr/>	\$4,949 81
Balance unexpended		<hr/> \$50 19

*Cambridge Field and Shelter.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$4,500 00

EXPENDED.		
Pay roll	\$3,652 84	
Lighting	754 70	
Telephone service	23 90	
Toilet paper	18 00	
Miscellaneous supplies	12 13	
Fixing halyards	10 00	
Laundering towels	8 56	
Teaming	7 81	
Repairing furnace	4 30	
Repairing clock	3 00	
Water Works	2 50	
Plumbing	1 30	
Express	75	
Total	<hr/>	\$4,499 79
Balance unexpended		<hr/> \$0 21

*Brown Tail Moth Extermination.*

Amount appropriated January 8, 1903 . . . . . \$2,500 00

Amount appropriated February 28, 1903 . . . . . 1,000 00

Amount of revenue received during year and appropriated by order  
of March 26, 1903 . . . . . 250 03

*Amount carried forward* . . . . . \$3,750 03

PARK DEPARTMENT.

27

Amount brought forward . . . . . \$3,750 03

EXPENDED.

Pay roll . . . . .	\$3,443 72	
Teaming . . . . .	43 88	
Ladders . . . . .	40 50	
Use of horse, wagon and tools . . . . .	32 72	
Printing . . . . .	32 25	
Tools and hardware . . . . .	32 16	
Repairing tools . . . . .	7 60	
Creosote . . . . .	3 75	
Express . . . . .	1 80	
Repairing wagon top . . . . .	75	
Total . . . . .		\$3,639 13
Balance unexpended . . . . .		\$110 90

Sections G and H.

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$3,300 00

EXPENDED.

Pay roll . . . . .	\$2,342 67	
Lighting . . . . .	836 26	
Tools . . . . .	58 91	
Stakes . . . . .	34 00	
Engineering . . . . .	9 00	
Total . . . . .		\$3,280 84
Balance unexpended . . . . .		\$19 16

Sections A, B, D, F and Rindge Field.

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$2,500 00  
 Amount appropriated June 24, 1903 . . . . . 500 00  
 \$3,000 00

EXPENDED.

Section A.

Lighting . . . . . \$231 76

Section B.

Lighting . . . . . 848 50

Section D.

Lighting . . . . . 720 14

Section F.

Lighting . . . . . 345 03

Rindge Field.

Pay roll . . . . . \$564 03  
 Lighting . . . . . 263 12  
 Coal . . . . . 6 75  
 833 90

Total . . . . . \$2,979 33  
 Balance unexpended . . . . . \$20 67

*Bath House.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$2,200 00

	EXPENDED.	
Pay roll . . . . .	\$1,691 96	
Lighting . . . . .	185 79	
Laundering suits and towels . . . . .	80 47	
Carpentering . . . . .	69 30	
Miscellaneous supplies . . . . .	51 58	
Lumber . . . . .	34 94	
Printing . . . . .	26 05	
Towels . . . . .	17 64	
Clothes wringer . . . . .	8 82	
Emergency supplies . . . . .	6 58	
Telephone service . . . . .	6 18	
Hardware . . . . .	5 51	
Stockings . . . . .	2 30	
Repairing flag . . . . .	2 00	
Repairing lock and making keys . . . . .	1 50	
Canvas . . . . .	1 38	
Stamp and pad . . . . .	95	
Blacksmithing . . . . .	75	
Express . . . . .	25	
Total . . . . .		\$2,193 95
Balance unexpended . . . . .		\$6 05

*General Account.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$550 00

	EXPENDED.	
Rent of stable . . . . .	\$180 00	
Hay, grain and straw . . . . .	126 98	
Board of horse and use of room . . . . .	45 00	
Repairing wagon . . . . .	44 22	
Tools and hardware . . . . .	34 41	
Lumber . . . . .	24 38	
Repairing harnesses . . . . .	19 30	
Pay roll . . . . .	17 69	
Engineering . . . . .	16 50	
Shoeing horse . . . . .	16 50	
Paint and brushes . . . . .	8 30	
Posting "Rules and Regulations" . . . . .	6 80	
Repairing bicycles . . . . .	4 50	
Kerosene oil . . . . .	2 05	
Turning water off and on . . . . .	1 00	
Repairing stable blanket . . . . .	50	
Total . . . . .		\$548 13
Balance unexpended . . . . .		\$1 87

*Fort Washington.*

Amount appropriated March 11, 1903 . . . . . \$500 00

Amount transferred to Contingent Fund October 17, 1903 . . . . . 500 00

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. MONTGOMERY,

*General Superintendent of Parks.*

## REPORT OF THE CITY ENGINEER

---

OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER,  
CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE.

*Mr. Andrew J. Conlin, Chairman Cambridge Park Commission:—*

DEAR SIR,—In compliance with your request, I submit the following report of work done in the Park Department during the financial year of 1903 with which this office has been connected.

The contract with Mr. W. B. Mullen to deliver and spread 50,000 cubic yards, more or less, of gravel filling on Section C of the River Parkway was signed June 11, 1903. Under arrangement with Mr. Mullen the Bay State Dredging Company has delivered at Section C on November 30, 1903, 39,354.3 cubic yards of a very good quality of gravel. The material was taken from the new channel being dug in connection with the Cambridge Bridge.

This gravel underlies a covering of mud which in the course of the work was first removed and a large part of it dumped on Park lands on the Cambridge side of the river; 5,570.6 cubic yards on Section D in the cove near River Street; 5,123 cubic yards on Section C between Brookline Street and the Boston & Albany Railroad, and 12,081 cubic yards on Section C outside of the bulkhead.

The gravel has been spread to a level grade which will, it is expected, allow shaping to sub-grade without waste or excess. The material already delivered has been sufficient to carry the work the full width of the Park within about 850 feet of the railroad and for the remainder of the way wide enough to allow the building of a driveway to the railroad.

Acting under directions from your Board the grade of the play-field at Rindge Field was altered to allow of the grading of this part of the general scheme for improvement to be carried forward without the necessity of purchasing any filling and also to obtain a larger unobstructed play-field. The grade fixed has provided an excess of material which has been used in filling the low part of the field along Yerxa Road.

Fort Washington has been renovated by rebuilding the moat and rampart, constructing walks, setting up old cannon and planting some shrubs in accordance with plans prepared in this office.



A plan was prepared for the installation of baths in the basement of the Shelter at Cambridge Field which called for six baths, four dressing rooms and seventy-eight lockers. This work was carried out substantially as shown upon this plan.

A new entrance and necessary walk was laid out and built at Broadway Common to accommodate the people wishing to cross the Park from Tremont Street.

For the Park Department, this office has during the year made ten surveys, given fifty grades, made twenty plans, given twenty lines and set three stone bounds. These bounds were set on the park-line between Boylston and Holyoke Street. Considerable work has been done toward the completion of the plans of the various sections of the River Parkway. The work for the Park Department this year has been under the direction of Mr. F. E. Everett.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. PIERCE,  
*City Engineer.*















